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Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for performing an intersystem handover of a mobile terminal accessing a communication network via a radio access network of a first type, wherein said communication network comprises at least said radio access network of said first type and a radio access network of a second type, and wherein said intersystem handover is initiated by a transmission of said mobile terminal to said communication network, which transmission comprises information indicating that an intersystem handover from said radio access network of said first type to said radio access network of said second type should be performed.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said information indicating that an intersystem handover should be performed is a direct request for a specific type of radio access network.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said mobile terminal stores a list with at least one preferred type of radio access network, from which list said specific type of radio access network is selected.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said at least one preferred type of radio access network is assigned to a specific type of content or service or to specific characteristics of contents or services, and wherein said specific type of radio access network is selected based on a desired content or service.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said information indicating that an intersystem handover should be performed enables said communication network to derive a type of radio access network to which said mobile terminal should be connected.
6. A method according to claim 5, wherein said information indicating that an intersystem handover should be performed is one of a requested content, a requested service, a requested access point number, a requested uniform resource location (URL) and a requested target internet protocol (IP) address.
7. A method according to claim 5, wherein for deriving said type of radio access network to which said mobile terminal should be connected based on said information indicating that an intersystem handover should be performed, said communication network comprises a network element storing a list with at least one preferred type of radio access network for said mobile terminal.
8. A method according to claim 1, wherein said information indicating that an intersystem handover

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should be performed is transmitted in a dedicated information element in a connection establishment signaling.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said information indicating that an intersystem handover should be performed is transmitted in a dedicated message of a connection establishment signaling.
10. A method according to claim 1, wherein said radio access network of said first type is a preferred type of radio access network of said mobile terminal due to a first criterion, and wherein said radio access network of said second type is a preferred type of radio access network of said mobile terminal due to a second criterion.
11. A method according to claim 1, wherein an intersystem handover is required whenever a requested content is only available from a specific operator via said second type of radio access network.
12. A method according to claim 11, wherein in said mobile terminal different access point names are assigned to different contents, which contents are available via different types of radio access network, and wherein said information indicating that an intersystem handover should be performed comprises the access point name assigned to a requested content.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said communication network stores a list for said mobile terminal, in which list different access point names are assigned to a respective type of a radio access network, and wherein said communication network selects a type of radio access network to which a handover is to be performed from said list based on said access point name received in said information indicating that an intersystem handover should be performed from said mobile terminal.
14. A method according to claim 11, wherein a web switch connecting said communication network with a content server stores a list of uniform resource locations (URL) for content that is only available via said second type of radio access network, and wherein said web switch triggers a handover, in case said mobile terminal requests a content from said content server by transmitting a URL that is contained in said stored list of URLs.
15. A method according to claim 1, wherein an intersystem handover should be performed whenever said second type of radio access network is required for a specific service.
16. A method according to claim 1, wherein an intersystem handover should be performed whenever said mobile terminal prefers said second type of radio access network for a specific connection.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein said information indicating that an intersystem handover should be performed is transmitted by said mobile terminal in a setup message to said communication network.
18. A method according to claim 1, wherein said communication network grants an intersystem handover initiated by a transmission of said mobile terminal or, in case said intersystem handover is not feasible, blocks a requested call or context activation for which said intersystem handover was initiated.
19. A method according to claim 1, wherein said communication network triggers a handover with a new information element to said first type radio access network.
20. A method according to claim 1, wherein said intersystem handover takes place at a call setup.
21. A method according to claim 1, wherein said intersystem handover takes place at a packet data protocol (PDP) context activation.
22. A mobile terminal comprising means for accessing a communication network via at least two different types of radio access networks, and transmitting means for transmitting an information indicating that an intersystem handover from a radio access networks of a first type of said communication network to a

radio access network of a second type of said communication network should be performed.

23. A mobile terminal according to claim 22, further comprising storing means for storing a list with at least one preferred type of radio access network, and selection means for selecting from said list one type of radio access network for a desired connection, wherein said transmitting means transmit said selected type of radio access network as said information indicating that an intersystem handover should be performed.
24. A mobile terminal according to claim 22, further comprising storing means for storing at least two different access point names associated to at least two different content or service types, and selection means for selecting an access point name associated to a desired content or service type, wherein said transmitting means transmit said selected access point name as said information indicating that an intersystem handover should be performed.
25. A mobile terminal according to claim 22, further comprising a user interface for enabling a user to select one of at least two different access point names to be employed for a specific connection, wherein said transmitting means transmit said selected access point name as said information indicating that an intersystem handover should be performed.

26. A communication network comprising radio access networks of at least two different types and means for performing an intersystem handover of a mobile terminal accessing said communication network via a radio access network of a first type to a radio access network of a second type upon an information received from said mobile terminal indicating that an intersystem handover from said radio access network of said first type to a radio access network of said second type should be performed.
27. A communication network according to claim 26, further comprising storing means for storing for a mobile terminal a list with at least one preferred type of radio access network and selection means for selecting from said list one type of radio access network according to information indicating that an intersystem handover should be performed received from said mobile terminal, and wherein said means for performing an intersystem handover perform said handover in case the mobile terminal is currently accessing said communication network via another type of radio access network than the selected type of radio access network.
28. A communication network according to claim 26, comprising a core network with a network element, which network element includes means for analyzing information indicating that an intersystem handover should be performed received by a mobile terminal in order to determine a type of radio access network to which said mobile terminal should be connected, and

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means for triggering an intersystem handover in the radio access network to which the mobile terminal is currently connected.

29. A communication network according to claim 26, wherein at least one radio access network of said communication network comprises means for performing an intersystem handover to a radio access network of another type of said communication network based on a request by a network element of a core network of said communication network.
30. A communication network according to claim 26, wherein said radio access network of said first type is a 3G (3rd generation) radio access network, and wherein said radio access network of said second type is a 2G (2nd generation) radio access network.
31. A communication network according to claim 26, wherein said radio access network of said first type is a WCDMA (wideband code division multiple access) radio access network, and wherein said radio access network of said second type is a GSM/GPRS (global system for mobile communications / general packet radio system) radio access network.
32. A network element for a communication network, which network element comprises means for analyzing information received by a mobile terminal connected via a first type of radio access network to said communication network, and means for triggering an intersystem handover of said mobile terminal in case

said analyzed information indicates that an intersystem handover of said mobile terminal to a second type of radio access network should be performed.

33. A web switch for connecting a communication network and a content server, said web switch comprising storing means for storing a list of uniform resource locations (URL) which correspond to content that is only available from said content server via a specific type of radio access network, means for comparing a URL requested by a mobile terminal from said content server via said communication network with said stored list of URLs, and means for triggering a handover of said mobile terminal in said communication network in case said mobile terminal is connected to said communication network via another type of radio access network than said specific type of radio access network and in case said requested URL is contained in said stored list of URLs.

34. A communication system comprising a communication network with at least two different types of radio access networks and with means for performing an intersystem handover of a mobile terminal from a radio access network of a first type to a radio access network of a second type upon an initiation by a transmission of said mobile terminal, said communication system further comprising at least one mobile terminal with means for accessing said communication network via said radio access network of said first type and said radio access network of

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said second type and with transmitting means for transmitting an information indicating that an intersystem handover from a radio access networks of a first type of said communication network to a radio access network of a second type of said communication network should be performed.

35. A communication system according to claim 34, further including a web switch connecting said communication network with a content server, which web switch comprises storing means for storing a list of uniform resource locations (URL) which correspond to content that is only available from said content server via said second radio access technology, means for comparing a URL requested by said mobile terminal from said content server via said communication network with said stored list of URLs, and means for triggering a handover of said mobile terminal by said communication network in case said mobile terminal is connected to said communication network via said first type of radio access network and in case said requested URL is contained in said stored list of URLs.

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